AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A method for use in communications involving a first terminal that is coupled to one side of a firewall and network address translator, the method comprising:

sending, by the first terminal, a message identifying the first terminal to a node on another side of the firewall and network address translator;

receiving, by the first terminal, another message from the node, wherein the messages between the first terminal and the node causes creation of a path through the firewall and network address translator; and

repeatedly sending keep-alive messages to maintain the path through the firewall and network address translator.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving a call request, by the first terminal, from the node over the path maintained through the firewall and network address translator.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein repeatedly sending the keep-alive messages is based on a timer in the first terminal.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein sending the identifying message comprises sending a registration message to register the first terminal with the node.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein sending the registration message comprises sending a Session Initiation Protocol REGISTER message.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein sending the registration message comprises sending the registration message to a Session Initiation Protocol proxy, the node comprising the Session Initiation Protocol proxy.

7. – 24. (Cancelled)

25. (Original) A device capable of being used in communications through a firewall and network address translator, the device comprising:

an interface adapted to exchange messages with a node on another side of the firewall and network address translator, the exchange of messages with the node to create a path through the firewall and network address translator; and

a controller adapted to repeatedly send keep-alive messages to maintain the path through the firewall and network address translator.

26. (Original) The device of claim 25, further comprising a timer to determine timing of the keep-alive messages.

27. – 29. (Cancelled)

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein sending the message and receiving the message are used to perform registration of the first terminal, and

wherein repeatedly sending the keep-alive messages to maintain the path through the firewall and network address translator is performed for a duration of the registration of the first terminal.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein maintaining the path through the firewall and network address translator comprises maintaining a signaling path between the first terminal and the node through the firewall and network address translator.

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein repeatedly sending the keep-alive messages to maintain the path through the firewall and network address translator causes a mapping table to be maintained by the firewall and network address translator, the mapping table containing a mapping between an internal address of the first terminal and an external address of the first terminal.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33, wherein timing of repeatedly sending the keep-alive messages is controlled by a timer, and wherein repeatedly sending the keep-alive messages is performed at a periodic interval sufficient to prevent closing of the mapping caused by time-out in the firewall and network address translator.

35. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 25, wherein the interface is adapted to exchange messages with the node to perform registration of the device, and

the controller repeatedly sends keep-alive messages to maintain the path through the firewall and network address translator for a duration of the registration of the device.

36. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 25, wherein the controller repeatedly sends keep-alive messages to maintain a signaling path through the firewall and network address translator between the device and node.

37. (Cancelled)

38. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 25, wherein the controller repeatedly sending keep-alive messages to maintain the path through the firewall and network address translator causes a mapping table to be maintained by the firewall and network address translator, the mapping table containing a mapping between an internal address of the device and an external address of the device.

39. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 38, further comprising a timer to determine timing of the keep-alive messages, wherein the timer causes the keep-alive messages to be sent at a periodic interval sufficient to prevent closing of the mapping caused by a time-out in the firewall and network address translator.